



## DECISION MEMO

**Recreation Residence Permit Amendments on Use Areas BCL 6, 13, 13A, 15, 18B and 19  
Region 8, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
St. Francis Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests  
Bear Creek Lake Recreation Residence Tract, Lee County, AR**

### **Background**

The St. Francis National Forest has forty-eight recreation residences on the Bear Creek Lake Recreation Residence tract under land use authorizations (permits). No individual use area exceeds five contiguous acres.

Only authorized improvements (privately owned structures and items associated with the use) that are listed on the permit face or those authorized in writing by the Forest Service may be present on the use area, and any modification of an authorized improvement must be approved in writing by the Forest Supervisor prior to implementing the change on the use area.

Six individuals holding recreation residence permits for use areas on the Bear Creek Lake Recreation Residence tract have submitted requests to either change or add improvements on their use areas as shown below. The St. Francis Ranger District proposes amendment of the recreation residence permits associated with these use areas be approved.

Use Area	Amendment:
BCL 6	Remove conditionally authorized pier from the permit.  Remove railroad tie erosion barriers from the permit.  Increase deck space from 280 square feet to 544 square feet.
BCL 13	Change size of the authorized dock to reflect an extension of the roofline by 6 feet.
BCL 13A	Replace a brick patio with a wooden deck.
BCL 15	Add a 476 sq ft deck
BCL 18B	Add a 150 sq ft wooden storage shed
BCL 19	Replace a metal storage shed with a wooden storage shed.

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*Decision Memo*

*Recreation Residence Permit Amendments/ Use Areas BCL 6, 13, 13A, 15, 18B and 19*

## **Decision**

I have decided to recommend approval of these amendments to the Forest Supervisor.

Before reaching my decision, I considered the following resource conditions listed in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30 Section 31.2 and determined there are no associated extraordinary circumstances that would have a significant effect on the human environment or result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect if the modifications are authorized.

- *Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat or Forest Service sensitive species;*
- *Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds;*
- *Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas or national recreation areas;*
- *Inventoried Roadless Areas;*
- *Research Natural Areas;*
- *Native American religious or cultural sites, and*
- *Other archaeological sites, historic properties and/or areas*

I find these actions fall within the following category of actions listed in Chapter 30, Section 32.2 of FSH 1909.15; it is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement:

**FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30, Section 32.2 (3):** *“Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.”* 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3)

## **Public Involvement**

The proposed modifications were posted on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests website’s projects page for a period of two weeks with a request for comments during that timeframe. None were received.

## **Findings Required by Other Laws**

Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2347.1 provides the general policy for recreation residence use. Amendment of recreation residence permits does not violate or threaten to violate any federal, state or local laws or regulations.

## **Appeal Opportunities**

This decision is not subject to appeal.

## **Implementation**

Implementation of the changes on each use area may begin when permit amendments are approved by the Forest Supervisor.

## **Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this decision contact me, Deputy District Ranger Mary Maercklein at (870) 295-5278 extension 5244, [mmaercklein@fs.fed.us](mailto:mmaercklein@fs.fed.us) .

/s/ **Mary Maercklein**

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Mary Maercklein  
Deputy District Ranger  
Sylamore-St. Francis Ranger District

July 14, 2014

Date

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